expenditure incurred on each project are given below:—

Project	Capacity	Sanctioned cost	Expenditure till March, 1991
		(Rupees Crores)	
Mine II (Stage II);	5.8 m.t.y. (from 4.7 m.t.y. to 10.5 m.t.y.)	1065.40 (4/90 base)	850.52
Thermal Power Station (Stage-II);	840 MW (4x210 MW) (from 630 MW to 1470 MW)	1016.80 (12/85 base)	966.11
400 KV Transmission System (Stage-II):	400 KV lines and sub-stations	367.74 (6/89 base)	250.97
Zero Unit to TPS II	1x210 MW	397.26 (7/88 base)	0.47
Float Machine (1400 L BWE)	1.00 m.t.y.	77.37 (7/88 base)	..
Barsingsar lignite mine (Rajasthan)	1.7 m.t.y.	242.31 (11/90 base)	1.53
Barsingsar TPS (Raj.)	2x120 MW	585.73 (11/90 base)	0.57

Pakistan's capability for making Nuclear Devices

*157. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has at present enough material and components for making atleast 10 nuclear devices; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect. While there is no doubt about the clandestine nature and weapons ori-

entation of Pakistan's nuclear programme, estimates vary about the exact quantum of material and components acquired.

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Sethu Samudharam Canal Project

*158. SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to implement the Sethu Samudhram Canal Project; and

(b) if so, what is the total estimated cost for the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No final decision as yet has been taken on the project.

Death of handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh

*159. SHRI MENTARY PADMANABHAM:
SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of starvation deaths that have taken place among the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh from September, 1991 to November 15, 1991;

(b) what financial and other assistance will be rendered to the next of kin of the deceased;

(c) whether Government propose to send a team to Andhra Pradesh to enquire into their tragic conditions, if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure their full and continuous employment at reasonable wages to improve their living conditions; and

(e) whether there is a proposal to entrust at least 50 per cent of the textile requirements of the consuming Departments of Government to the Primary Weavers' Cooperative on conversion basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Seventy six deaths of weavers including seven deaths due to suicide have been reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh during this period. These deaths have been attributed to various reasons including prolonged illness, old age, addiction to alcohol, etc.

(b) State Government is organising a relief of Rs. 5000/- per family of the deceased weavers through local organisations. State Government has also agreed to provide production oriented consumption loan through Bank to the affected weavers at Rs. 1000/- per family. Medical teams have also been despatched to the affected districts to provide assistance to the members of weaver families.

(c) In the wake of reports of starvation deaths, the Central Government deputed two separate teams of officers to assess the situation on the spot and to take necessary remedial action. The following measures are contemplated with a view to ameliorate the conditions of handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh:-

(i) Provision of additional assistance of Rs. 16.00 lakhs over and above the State's normal MDA entitlement to enable the State Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (APCO) to undertake procurement of an additional two crores worth of goods within the period ending March '92 from the weavers including those working outside the cooperative/corporate sector in the affected districts of Andhra Pradesh;